

# **MINUTES**

## **STATEWIDE COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS (SCCAO)**

**Thursday, January 27, 2000**

### **I. Call to Order**

Dr. Hargrave called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

### **II. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 1999 Meeting**

Since there were no suggestions for changes to the minutes of the September 23, 1999 meeting of the Council, the minutes were approved as distributed.

### **III. Report on the Work of Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Education and Related Matters**

#### **A. Presentation by Dr. Jeanne Burns**

Dr. Jeanne Burns, Special Projects Director for the Governor's Office and Coordinator of the Blue Ribbon Commission, described the progress of work of the Blue Ribbon Commission. Dr. Burns reminded Committee members of the charge that the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education assigned to the Commission. She noted that initial meetings of the Commission had been largely devoted to providing Commission members with an overview of the status of teacher education in Louisiana and presentations from successful teacher reform initiatives in other states. At its meeting in December, the Commission began to work in earnest on the development of a statewide teacher preparation accountability system. Dr. Burns provided Commission members with materials outlining how the Commission was proceeding in this matter. In addition to developing an accountability system, the Commission is formulating recommendations for specific commitments to be made by all affected parties to promote the success of this endeavor. The Commission has also formed three subcommittees (Alternate Certification, New certification, and Information System/Technology) and two subject area consortia (Mathematics/Science and Language Arts/Reading) to provide the Commission with recommendations for substantive changes in current legislation, policies, procedures, and regulations to promote reform in other areas of teacher education.

#### **B. Comments of Regent Frances Henry**

Mrs. Frances Henry, Chair of the Board of Regents' Academic and Students Affairs Committee and the Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission, urged colleges and universities to consider a more hands-on approach to teacher education. Mrs. Henry also reminded all present of dramatic shortages in the numbers of appropriately trained elementary/secondary and special education teachers

anticipated within the next few years, and encouraged campuses to pursue alternate certification programs as a viable means to recruit more students into the profession.

#### **C. Observations of Dr. Ken Rea**

Dr. Ken Rea, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Louisiana Tech University and a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission, observed that the Blue Ribbon Commission is determined to bring about substantive change in the way teachers are prepared and supported as new professionals. He solicited suggestions from members of the Council of issues to be considered by the Commission.

#### **D. Report of Dr. Carolyn Hargrave Relative to Prospects for a Title II Grant and Related Issues**

Dr. Hargrave reported that she and Dr. Jeanne Burns have already begun preparations for the submission of a FY 2000-2001 Title II grant proposal from the State of Louisiana to the U.S. Department of Education. To this end, both attended a conference in Washington, D.C. on January 21, 2000 held by the Department of Education. This conference included presentations from states which received grants this year and special sessions for states which have yet to receive funding to discuss strategies for the development of a successful proposal. Dr. Hargrave observed that some successful state grants included provisions for the funding of half-time institutional coordinators to assist in teacher reform efforts. She asked that universities/colleges forward to her any suggestions they may have for initiatives that should be included in Louisiana's grant proposal.

Dr. Hargrave noted that the Board of Regents will sponsor a forum for system and campus presidents and chancellors, provosts, and deans of education and arts and sciences in February or March on the reform of teacher education programs and the critical role played by the entire campus. Two speakers from the Texas A&M University System have been invited to discuss teacher education initiatives. Further information regarding this event will be forthcoming shortly.

General discussion among Council members followed the conclusion of the above presentations, including such items as the need to include two-year schools in reform activities, the distribution of draft materials currently being considered by the Commission, and the availability of data regarding the educational preparation of practicing teachers.

### **IV. Discussion Items**

#### **A. English and Mathematics Placement Scores**

Dr. Carroll Falcon, Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of Louisiana System, presented the results of his study of cutoff ACT scores used by state universities and colleges to place students in freshman-level English and Mathematics courses. While there is some uniformity in the ACT score used to determine student placement in freshman-level English, there is great disparity among ACT scores required for placement in freshman-level Mathematics. There is also disagreement among campuses regarding the minimum content of freshman-level Mathematics. Following Dr. Falcon's

report, there was discussion regarding the use of diagnostic examinations used by several campuses in association with ACT scores to determine English course placement and the need to reconsider Regents' general education requirements for mathematics in terminal associate degrees. Discussion concluded with general agreement that a Steering Committee should be formed to reexamine all issues associated with development of a statewide standard for achievement levels that high school graduates must attain to meet college placement requirements in freshman-level English and Mathematics. The Steering Committee will coordinate work of the new committee with Dr. Tremblay to ensure appropriate coordination with the long-standing Articulation Committee. Dr. Falcon will assume responsibility for the formation and meetings of this committee.

## **B. Routing of Materials to Campuses**

After reflecting upon current Regents' mailing procedures which may inhibit the timely transmission of Academic Affairs materials to campuses. Dr. Hargrave noted that she will be having discussions with systems academic officers to consider the development of a more effective mechanism.

## **C. Special/Regular Legislative Session Issues**

Mr. Donnie Vandal, Deputy Commissioner for Administration for the Board of Regents, briefed Council members on issues to be considered during the upcoming special and regular sessions of the Legislature that may affect higher education. In particular, the Regents will be working to prevent any cuts to operating budgets, while lobbying for full funding of the formula and faculty/staff salaries increase. There also may be some legislation introduced to permit campuses and their management boards to increase tuition costs inline with the SREB average without going to the Legislature for approval each time an adjustment is requested. Mr. Vandal noted that the Commissioner is working with system/campus heads to develop a public relations campaign emphasizing the importance of Louisiana's higher education institutions to the economic and social development of the State.

## **V. Updates**

### **A. Program Accreditation**

Dr. Ann Britt reported that the Regents' staff is still working on a comprehensive matrix which will reflect the status of accreditation for all academic programs at state universities and colleges. The information on the matrix, which should be completed within a week or two, will need to be verified by all affected campuses so that when the staff begins to implement the new Accreditation Policy there are no disputes regarding informational accuracy.

### **B. Electronic Learning**

Mr. Mike Abbiatti noted that the Electronic Learning Committee is near completion of a one-year pilot program for revenue sharing between campuses which operate joint programs/ courses via distance learning technologies. The Council will be asked to consider this proposed plan at

its next meeting. Mr. Abbiatti also reported on numbers of courses and student enrolled in distance learning courses and announced Regents' approval of the first two electronically-delivered degree programs from Louisiana public campuses. Mr. Abbiatti closed by reminding all of upcoming meetings related to statewide distance learning activities and initiatives.

### **C. Collaborative Programs**

Mr. Gerard Killebrew noted that initial staff reviews of the fifteen program collaboratives formed as a result of the 1996 Review of Duplicative Programs have been completed and the results reported to the Board of Regents. Copies of these staff assessments, including requirements for further reporting, have been forwarded to all affected campuses.

### **D. Academic Common Market**

Dr. Stephen Scott observed that the Regents' staff has completed its annual review of degree programs offered through and by the State of Louisiana through the Academic Common Market. Several programs which the State formerly granted access have been dropped due to duplication with curricula already offered by state universities/colleges.

### **E. CITAL**

Dr. Scott reported that the Board of Regents has issued its RFP for FY 2000- 2001 grant proposals. The RFP stipulates areas of eligibility, amounts of funding available, and timelines for proposal submission and review.

### **F. Other**

Dr. Neari Warner, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Grambling State University, reminded Council members of the upcoming annual meeting of the Conference of Louisiana College and Universities at Grambling on April 5-6, 2000. Dr. Hargrave provided the Council with a schedule of meeting for the higher education governance/management boards during 2000. Dr. Dan Fogel, Executive Vice Chancellor at Louisiana State University, announced a service learning workshop to be sponsored by LSU during the AAHE meeting in New Orleans on February 3, 2000.

## **VI. Roundtable**

Dr. Fogel reported that the LSU System has approved a framework for post-tenure review of its faculty. Dr. Falcon noted that the UL System has narrowed its list of prospective candidates for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs at UL-Lafayette to three persons.

## **VII. Other Business**

The next meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for April 27, 2000.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Dr. Hargrave adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.